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## Secretary Gassman Meets with Appleton Students Enrolled in “Project Lead the Way” Program

*Sets students on future career paths*

**Appleton** – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today highlighted the “Project Lead the Way” program at Tesla Engineering Charter School. Tesla is located on Appleton East High School campus and today’s visit was to a Computer Integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Design and Development class.

“Project Lead the Way is a great way to help our students broaden their horizons,” Secretary Roberta Gassman said. “The program’s goals to increase the number of young people who pursue engineering and engineering technology programs align perfectly with the departments’ objectives to ensure we provide training opportunities for today’s students as we build our future workforce.”

Project Lead The Way Inc. (PLTW) is a national program that forms partnerships among public schools, higher education institutions and the private sector to increase the quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologists graduating from our education system. First developed in the 1980’s, PLTW is now offered in more than 45 states and the District of Columbia.

DWD and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) have formed a partnership to provide a total of \$205,500 for the program. During today’s visit, Secretary Gassman highlighted that DPI has provided \$5,910 and DWD has provided \$3,500 to Appleton area schools the past year.

“Governor Doyle’s **Grow Wisconsin** plan calls for leading our youth down a path that allows them to gain new skills and plan for their future careers,” Secretary Gassman said. “Thirty-five new schools have added PLTW programs this year, bringing the total number of schools participating to 92 and we are continuing to grow. This truly is a great success story for Wisconsin and our industries.”

For more information on the program, go to <http://www.pltw.org/aindex.htm>

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